

Preparing finances for deployment

Budget planning, teamwork prevent financial problems

By Alexandra Williams
U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Public Affairs Office

Young couples have a lot on their mind before the deployment but one issue they cannot overlook is the finances. Financial planning should be a priority not only when it comes to deployment readiness.

"The key is to prevent problems. Separation is part of Army life and every Soldier should have a budget plan. It's important to be proactive now and make decisions before the deployment," said Kisha Jennings, U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Army Community Service financial program manager.

If the Soldier is the one normally taking care of the finances the spouse has to be prepared for the additional responsibility to avoid trouble. Otherwise problems such as bounced checks, increased debt, unpaid bills, Soldier or spouse without funds or casual pay withdrawals could occur.

Questions like how will the spouse receive the income, how much do you owe to whom and when need to be clarified. Couples must decide on who is going to pay the bills during the separation. Issues like current allotments, that the spouse has all the creditor information and knows where to get help need to be discussed. Spouses should be enabled to access the My Pay system and be able to check the leave



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Establishing a budget before the deployment is essential to avoid financial problems while the Soldier is downrange.

and earning statements for correctness.

"It's important now to empower your spouse to take care of the finances or to set allotments if he or she is not able to handle them," Jennings said.

Establishing a bill paying system and testing it prior the deployment helps to determine if maybe extra allotments are needed.

Larger purchases should be discussed prior to the separation.

"Teamwork in planning the budget is the key. Make joint decisions before the deployment. Estimate the expenses during the deployment. Do not only consider the bills you are paying over here but include extra money for the

deployed Soldier as he or she may have expenses for snacks and meals and phone calls home," she said.

"In the planning distinguish between wants and needs and set realistic goals for the needs. Consider all changes in income. Use only one checkbook to keep control on money spent and be careful with credit cards because you might spend more than planned," Jennings said.

"Try to be as realistic as possible and use a financial worksheet to keep track of the budget."

To avoid overspending couples need to decide how and who will use the credit card and stick to the budget they

have agreed on. Managing a joint account by two people can be very difficult so Jennings suggests considering an additional deployment account the Soldier can use.

The extra pay Soldiers receive during deployment should not be part of the budget.

"I suggest saving the extra money the Soldier is making downrange. It helps when he or she comes back. We know from the previous deployment that when they return many families want to take a trip or buy something. It might also help when an extra bill comes in," she said.

Planning for the unexpected is another important part so an emergency plan is of great help.

Emergencies

"Things break down or they get lost and must be replaced. It's hard to plan for the unexpected but an emergency fund come in handy. Just ask yourself what could go wrong and what do you need to prepare for that case. Be a realistic and make sure your spouse has access to all necessary documents like powers of attorney, insurance policies, financial statements and your will," Jennings said.

The ACS financial readiness program offers a variety of classes to help families with budgeting, getting out of debt and resolving financial problems. Individual appointments are available. For details call the ACS offices in Giessen at mil 343-7618, Friedberg at mil 324-3465 or Butzbach at civ (06033). *(Editor's note: This is the third article in a series on preparing families for the upcoming deployment.)*



Challenging fitness

Alexander Nakamura (front) tries to estimate the speed he needs to jump over a rope while Conner Hale and Ethan Snead stand in line waiting for their turn July 6 outside of the Giessen Library. The boys participated in the U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Library Summer Reading program "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds." Besides reading books and doing wood crafts the children are always treated to other activities like a visit to a farm or a morning of fitness to become "tough as a dragon and strong like a knight", said librarian Ann Burski. "I want to get the community involved in health and well-being so today I hope to encourage the children to make fitness part of their lives," said Aaron Smith, USAG Giessen fitness specialist. With the help of library staff, the book witch and summer hires the children had to go through five stations challenging them to do their best. "I liked the three-legged race but it was very hard. Jumping over the rope was a little scary because there were little red bugs all over the place. I looked at them and I think they are poisonous. I jumped anyway and the bugs did not bite me," Nakamura said.

Photo by Alexandra Williams

U.S. Army Garrison Giessen

Father to bid military flock farewell

By **Alexandra Williams**
U.S. Army Garrison Giessen
Public Affairs Office

Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Ehrhart will say goodbye to his military family this September. At the age of 72 and after having served the military for 22 years and four months, the Catholic chaplain is exchanging his BDUs for civilian attire.

Before retiring in September Ehrhart is enjoying terminal leave in Germany while still ministering to the needs of U.S. Army Garrison Giessen community members.

During his time in Giessen Ehrhart quickly proved to be a popular community leader. As an older representative of the cloth, the chaplain shared the benefits of his years of experience helping counsel and mentor Soldiers, civilians and family members.

Before donning a military uniform Ehrhart had to prove he is a fighter. Attempting to join the forces for many years, it was only after the Army had a shortage of Catholic priests that Ehrhart, who was already more than 50 years old, was granted permission from his bishop to join the Army.

Trading the quiet life in his diocese in Rockville Center, N.Y., for a life full of privation, often serving in harm's way, in the Army left many in his congregation puzzled, he said.

"Some asked how a Catholic priest can be in the Army, and I told them that these young men and women are serving for many reasons. They don't come in to

fight but to get an education."

Joining at an age when others retire has been a challenge at times, especially when it came to training.

In his career he has served in many places including Germany, Korea, Egypt, New Jersey, Kansas, Georgia, Alabama and California.

"One of the roughest times I had was while attending training at Fort Irwin, California. It's probably the hardest and most realistic training outside of war. The only thing different is that they don't have real bullets," he said.

His favorite part of being in the military is working with young people and enjoying the rich diversity of the military, he said.

"They are the pride of our community, our country and our future. Many serve in the military because they want to see the American way of life maintained," Ehrhart said.

"As a military priest you are not dealing with your (Catholic) congregation. You are responsible for Catholics, Protestants, Jews or Muslims. In certain situations it does not matter what religious belief you have but only that you are there for them."

Sharing fate, luck

In more than two decades the chaplain has shared the fate and luck of many. He has shared the happiness of birth and shed tears over families who received the dreaded notification of injury or even death of their Soldier.

One incident is etched in



Photo by Alexandra Williams

USAG Giessen chaplain's assistant Pfc. Emeris Kreamer (left) and Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Ehrhart have a laugh together at a ceremony held in the Alpine Club in Giessen. Working with young people is one of his favorite parts of being in the military.

his memory.

While stationed at Fort Lee, Va., he was involved in processing Soldiers activated to fight in the Gulf War. "The last unit I helped outprocess got held back. When they finally left their brand new first sergeant was appointed as their acting commander because the company commander, a lieutenant, had an ulcer and could not deploy with them. I remember standing at the airfield to see them off," he said.

A short time after their ar-

rival in Kuwait the unit became a victim of a Scud attack near their tent, killing 14 of their Soldiers.

"It was the most shocking news. To me these were not just names because I knew them," he said. "It broke my heart when the unit returned and the first sergeant said, 'I said I'll bring them all back but I didn't.' This was the worst experience in my military career, and it still gets me upset when I think about it."

Upon the unit's return from

the war Ehrhart helped inprocess them, staying busy day and night talking and listening to them, he said. He also went to Pennsylvania where a memorial was dedicated to the Soldiers who died during the attack. There Ehrhart met the families of the fallen Soldiers. "Talking to them was the hardest thing I ever did," he said.

His plans for the summer include meeting his bishop who will come to Cologne to attend the World Youth Day. He also plans to travel to places he wanted to see but had no time to, visit family and even travel to Korea to visit friends.

Difficult to leave

"It's going to be difficult to leave because I have family here. I think it's also hard to get used to life in the diocese again. In the Army I was responsible for myself, but when you live in the diocese you have at least one other priest living with you. I had to do it before when I was sent to get a degree so I know it's going to be difficult," he said.

He will take back fond memories of the Soldiers he has met over the years and the many lessons the Army has taught him.

"When you are out there with the Soldiers and your life depends on the chaplain's assistant and other Soldiers, it makes you think about life and death, but also about your own mortality.

"I never regretted serving my country. I would do it all again," he said.

Protect yourself, family from swimming accidents

By **Helmut Schartel**
U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Safety Office

Summer in Germany can be an opportunity for Soldiers and their families to enjoy recreational activities such as swimming and boating. As these activities provide lots of fun for everybody, do not forget to protect yourself and those around you from accidents.

Many drownings occur each year because swimmers do not take reasonable precautions. The tragedy is that these losses to families and the Army could have been avoided. Remember some basic rules for drown-proofing

before an accident becomes a tragedy.

- Use the "buddy system." This ensures someone is available to offer or to get help in an emergency.

- Swim only in waters that have been designated and approved for swimming. A list of approved swimming areas is available in the safety office and on the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen website at www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil/sites/services/safety.

- If you are on vacation, swim only where trained lifeguards are on duty.

- Never drink alcohol or use drugs before swimming. Drinking or drugs

will impair judgment. Alcohol also increases the loss of body heat, which can cause cramps.

- Know your ability and stay within your limit. Test your endurance only in well-supervised swimming areas.

- Do not swim when tired, overheated or chilled.

- Never swim immediately after eating. Wait at least 45 minutes before entering the water.

Following these rules will help to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer for you and your loved ones. For more information call mil 343-1670.

Summer camp

The School-Age Services **4H Summer Camp** is open through Aug. 19 in Butzbach. The theme is **Medieval Summer in Camelot**. Enrollment takes place weekly. Occasional users are welcome. Shuttle buses are available for children in Giessen and Bad Nauheim. For more information call the Friedberg CDC at civ (06031) 813 137 or the Bad Nauheim SAS at civ (06032) 803 803. For details on all other programs call CLEOS at mil 343-7276.

U.S. Army Garrison Giessen

Community spotlights ... Community spotlights

Softball champions

Congratulations to the Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Crusaders for first place in the U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Unit-Level Softball Championships July 21. The Crusaders beat the Company B, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Battlecats 15-14 to win the championship on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. Rodney Crenshaw earned player of the day honors going four for four at the plate including three homeruns and stealing home to seal the win for the Crusaders. Both teams travel to Hanau July 30 to play in the USAG Hessen Unit-Level Championships.

Kudos to local student

Congratulations to Jonathan Pierce of Giessen Youth Services who won the regional Boys and Girls Clubs of America ImageMakers Photography competition. Pierce, age 13, won his age group in the color process category for his work titled "The Castle."

Parent's Night Out

A Parent's Night Out is scheduled for Aug. 26 from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at the Butzbach Child Development Center. Reservation and payment deadline is Aug. 19. The cost of \$10 for CDC-age children and \$6 for School-Age Service age children includes dinner and a snack.

Mayors program

The U.S. Army Giessen Mayors Program in Butzbach needs volunteers to work in various committees such as welcome, program/events, fundraisers and website. For more information see Mayor Micol Clissold or Deputy Mayor Tina Williams Tuesday or Thursday from 6-8 p.m. in the Butzbach Outreach Center or call them at civ (06033) 925 329.

Arts and crafts classes

The Giessen Arts and Crafts Shop hosts a **gallery glass workshop** Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$15. A **quilting circle** meets Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is

\$5. A **creative kids** workshop is hosted Thursday at 4 p.m. Cost is \$5.50. A three-part **expressive painting class** takes place from the first to the third Thursday of the month from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The cost is \$15. A **cross stitch workshop** takes place Friday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The cost is \$15. The shop also seeks instructors for a variety of classes. For details call Amy Brown at mil 343-6445.

Friedberg Arts and Crafts hosts **stained glass classes**. The Creative Kids Craft program offers different crafts every Monday for children age 8-13. **Family holiday photos** can be taken now before deployment. No sitting fee for deploying families during the fall. For more information call mil 324-3266.

Advanced framing techniques, archival preservation and more is available at the Custom Frame Shop. The Plaque Shop offers a wide selection of custom-crafted plaques. Customers can bring in their own artwork or unit insignia. Rush

requests are accepted. Balloons, mugs with matching totes, candy, bears and more are available at the Balloon Center. Delivery to Giessen and Butzbach is also available. For more information and details call Amy Brown at mil 343-6445.

Child care openings

The Giessen and Butzbach Child Development centers have openings for full-day infant, toddler and pre-school children. Bad Nauheim CDC has openings for full-day infant and part-day pre-school age children and toddlers. Giessen CDC seeks volunteers for the Parent Advisory Council. For details call CLEOS at mil 343-8216/7028.

Babysitter training

The American Red Cross conducts babysitter training Aug. 19 for youths age 12-15. The cost is \$22 and includes a book and babysitter kit. For more information or reservations call CLEOS at mil 343-8216/7028.

ACS update

Parent and Me Playtime takes place Friday from 10 a.m.

to noon in Giessen. **Story Time** is held Wednesday from 1-2:30 p.m. in Friedberg and from 1-2 p.m. in Giessen. **Children Movie Day** is hosted Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon in Giessen and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in Butzbach. ACS also hosts **computer skills/MS Word/Internet** classes and parenting classes. For dates and locations call ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618, ACS Friedberg at mil 324-3465 and the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ (06033) 925 329.

Home makeovers

The Mayors Program team of the Marshall Housing Area in Giessen offers home makeovers to all residents. If you are tired of the same old look around your house contact them and they will rearrange and redecorate with your existing possessions without spending money on furniture. If you are interested in participating or want more information call civ (0160) 593 5255 or send an email to mayor@marhsall-housing.com.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the

upcoming elections for mayor and deputy mayor in all the housing areas. For details call Joyce Williams at mil 343-7618/6038 or civ (0641) 402-7618/6038.

Limited service

Due to upcoming training of Detachment C, 39th Finance will only have minimal staff Aug. 8.

Choirs, Bible study

A **Liturgical Worship** service takes place Sunday at 10:45 a.m. at the Butzbach Outreach Center, first stairwell, first apartment. **Religious Education** is offered at 9:30 a.m. Point of contact is Chaplain (Capt.) Lew Messinger at mil 324-3223. **Collective Protestant Men's Bible Study** is offered Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Giessen Chapel. Current study is "Disciple of a Godly Man." Call Anthony Brannon at mil 343-6486, civ (0641) 480 9547, (0175) 472 1708 or email Anthony.brannon@cmtymail.104asg.army.mil. The **Giessen Hand Bell Choir** seeks members. Musical knowledge is not required. For details call Sharon Messinger at civ (06033) 925 736 or civ (06033) 747 397. The **Collective Protestant Choir** needs new members. Rehearsals take place Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Giessen Chapel. For more information call Colenton Freeman at civ (0641) 76711, (0172) 730 6668 or email cfree200@aol.com.

Outdoor Rec trips

Giessen Outdoor Recreation features a trip to **Amsterdam** Aug. 6. The cost is \$69. The beach/bio-dome "**My Tropical Island**" in Berlin is on the schedule Aug 12. The cost per person is \$89. A **Poland shopping excursion** takes place Aug 28. The cost per person is \$69. Call mil 343-8207 for more information.

Job opening at PX

HP/Compaq needs a demonstrator/merchandise for home office equipment Flexible hours, mainly weekends. 8hrs/wk. Ideal resume builder for military spouse. Please send resume to: eric.glavic@getmarketing.com or call civ (01607) 231095 for information.



Photo by Petra Roberts

Walk down memory lane

Fond memories of Friedberg's Ray Barracks came back when Gene Frye and his wife, Connie, returned to Friedberg after 31 years. Gene was stationed with 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, from 1970-1974. When he and his wife took a tour of parts of Europe, he decided to find out if the installation as he remembered it, still existed. Much to the excitement of his wife he was able to show her his old barracks, even the room he stayed



U.S. Army Garrison Giessen

Fun in the Sun: Soldiers, families enjoy day of music, merriment and more in Friedberg

Story and photos by
Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

It was a picture-perfect day — the ideal weather for a day of Fun in the Sun on Friedberg's Ray Barracks.

Soldiers, civilians and family members converged on the installation's Back 40 to enjoy a party thrown by the Hanau USO and Friedberg Fitness Center including everything from a day-long soccer tournament to performances by the 287th Army Band and Panamanian dancers, sumo wrestling to free refreshments and giveaways.

"We wanted to offer a special occasion, a fun day, for members of the 1st Brigade's deploying units," said Bianca Moton, Hanau USO manager. "We just wanted to give Soldiers and families a break as the units continue to prepare for the upcoming deployment to Iraq."

As children got their faces painted by members of the U.S. Army Garrison Giessen's Arts and Crafts staff, others listened to stories read by Giessen Library's Reginald Stewart in the Storymobile bus. Among the day's highlights were performances by the 287th Army Band's Woodwind Quintet and Saxophone Quartet. The National Guard Soldiers from Wilmington, Del., in Europe for two weeks of training and to backfill for the U.S. Army

Europe Band, had a busy schedule of concerts and changes of command while overseas.

Five teams from around Germany battled for bragging rights during the U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Soccer Championship that day. By the time the dust cleared a team from Heidelberg claimed first place and the Giessen Knights took second.

Free food and drinks and merchandise giveaways courtesy of the Hanau USO continued throughout the day.

"I want to thank Scout Troop 49 for running the games and helping man the USO canteen," said Moton, adding that several Mormon missionaries also volunteered to make the day a success.

More fun in sun

Soldiers and families will have another day to enjoy some quality time together Aug. 25 during the Family Day/National Night Out from 2-10 p.m. at Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne. The Hanau USO and Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program-sponsored event will include sports tournaments, children's activities, bike registration, free food, entertainment and more. A free softball tournament will be held in conjunction with the event.

"We just want to give Soldiers and their families a break," said Moton.

Call the Hanau USO at civ (06181) 88-8725 for more information.



Julie Abache from the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen's Marketing Division and Spc. Joe Abache of the 39th Finance Battalion enjoy a little sumo combat during the Fun in the Sun Fest on Friedberg's Ray Barracks Back 40 July 16. Photo below right: Giessen Library's Reginald Stewart reads stories to children and parents in the Storymobile.



Members of the 287th Army Band's Saxophone Quartet, a National Guard unit from Wilmington, Del., serving in Heidelberg as backfill for the U.S. Army Europe Band, perform in Friedberg. Photo above right: Eric Danzeiser paints Christopher Soard's face during the Fun in the Sun celebration on Friedberg's Ray Barracks July 16.



Hanau Community

Opportunities abound at job fair

By Susan Huseman

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Hanau Community Public Affairs Office

Local job hunters will have the unique opportunity to meet with potential employers on Aug. 17. The event will be at the Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Military ID cardholders, including civilian employees and family members can benefit from the job fair if they come prepared to find employment," said Carolyn Dewey, Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program manager and job fair coordinator.

"ManTech, AAFES (Army and Air Force Exchange Service), CYS (Child and Youth Services), Andrews Federal Credit Union, Community Bank,

Embry Riddle University, Central Texas College, and the U.S. Consulate were at the February job fair," said Dewey.

The registration period for employers is still open and the list of attendees is not yet complete. "So far the U.S. Consulate, ManTech, AAFES, the International Club, Embry Riddle, and NAF Personnel have registered for this month's fair," she added.

Dewey recommends preparing by familiarizing yourself with the mission, services provided and needs of the participating organizations and agencies.

"If you prepare, you will be able to speak intelligently about how you can become an asset to that employer," she said.

She suggests all candidates come prepared with

"an outstanding resume that outlines your experiences and accomplishments." Dewey also advises if interviewed "you should be prepared to give some background information and to elaborate on key points of your resume while keeping the employers' needs in mind."

The Hanau Army Community Service provides job search assistance to eligible ID cardholders with classes and resume reviews.

Job seekers can prepare for the job fair by attending the dress for success class Aug. 8, interview techniques class Aug. 11 and the resume workshop Aug. 15. All classes are 10 – 11:30 a.m. at ACS, Building 19, on Pioneer Kaserne. To sign up for a class or to receive additional details on employers contact Dewey at (06181) 88-9191.

64th.....

Continued from page 1

home, Rhein-Main Air Base, closes at the end of the year.

"General Bell (U.S. Army Europe commander) said he wanted world-class facilities to welcome the Soldiers and families to USAREUR," said Maj. Jerry Wood, 64th Replacement Company commander.

The Directorate of Public Works prepared three levels of cost estimates for U.S. Army Europe officials to see exactly the type of facilities that could be provided at Pioneer. "Once USAREUR decided on the amount of funds they would provide, we ensured our designs and cost estimates were within those limits," said Kirk Marek, director of Public Works, U. S. Army Garrison Hessen Hanau Community.

"In addition, we determined the most efficient contracting method to use to meet the suspense date and actually received excellent bids from contractors, which allowed additional work to be accomplished."

"The general made the decision to move us to Hanau on Jan. 6," said Wood. "When it comes to moving an entire organization with only 6 months notice, considering how far we've come and how we've done it — it's a credit to this community."

"Our Soldiers and families are moving into the barracks and quarters now," Wood said. "The unit headquarters will pack and relocate to Building 1 the week of Aug. 15. We will relocate the operations center furniture on Sept. 1 and 2. And over Labor Day weekend we unplug from Rhein-Main and plug into Pioneer, with buses rolling onto Pioneer the morning of Sept. 6."

"We are relocating our entire unit without a single down day. The support

given to us from the Hanau team and community has been far greater than anyone could have expected and has been the key to accomplishing this difficult task."

"We knew this was going to be a hot item from the beginning," said Jay Martinek, deputy chief of engineering, USAG Hessen Hanau Community. "When Hanau was chosen we simply turned on the engines and went to work. The true success in getting this done has been the team effort — from space utilization to getting design packages together to getting the procurement direction set up to executing the construction to installing the furnishings."

"The three main pieces of the puzzle, Buildings 23, 8 and 308, will be completed by July 31, exactly in accordance with our timeline," he added.

The 64th RC Operations Center will be located at Building 23. This is where Soldiers will inprocess and confirm or receive their pinpoint assignments. Once the inprocessing procedure is complete, Soldiers and family members will board sponsorship buses to their community of assignment.

To accommodate the travelers the facility includes a pet holding area, indoor playroom, and baggage storage room. Outside, behind the building, there is a covered play area, a secure overflow baggage area and a grassy area to exercise pets.

Typically travelers will spend one night in transient lodging, explained Wood. Families will stay in one of 16 apartments in Building 308. Unaccompanied Soldiers will be housed in Building 8. Its 80 rooms have a maximum capacity of 160 Soldiers.

Until now much of the focus has been on the physical facilities. With



Photo by Susan Huseman

German contractors install a canopy on the 64th Replacement Company's Transient Lodging Facility at Pioneer Kaserne.

completion in sight community agencies are turning their attention to other issues. Traffic flow and parking, weekend meals at the dining facility, the local community bus schedule, uninterrupted railhead operations (building 23 is located next to the railhead) and force protection details are now under scrutiny.

The intent is that when the buses start rolling onto Pioneer the transition is not only flawless but transparent, without any impact to the community. "About the only thing you should notice is someone walking around asking for directions to the Shoppette," Wood said.

All soldiers in the rank of major and below are required to process through the 64th Replacement Company when on orders to USAREUR units in Germany. For calendar year 2004 the company processed 15,539 Soldiers and 4,500 dependents, reported Capt. Meghan Ziglar, operations officer. They brought with them 38,776 pieces of luggage and 780 pets. All went through the Rhein-Main operations center.

The company's contingency mis-

sion will operate primarily out of Ramstein Air Base with some transient passengers transiting through Pioneer, said Capt. Catherine Booth, the company's executive officer. This includes moving Soldiers who were injured in Iraq or Afghanistan and are either being returned to duty or returned to their home station for further medical care, processing individual augmentees, emergency and rest and relaxation leaves for Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and the Balkans.

According to a U.S. Air Force Europe website military aircraft missions at Rhein-Main are scheduled to stop in October. After the flying mission is complete, the remaining U.S. personnel assigned to Rhein-Main will move to other U.S. European Command locations with their unit or on to other assignments around the world.

Once the transition is complete, Rhein-Main will close, and the property will be turned over to the German government. Currently, Frankfurt International Airport plans to use the Rhein-Main property to expand its services.

Hanau Community

Community notes . . . Community notes

Renew your vows

Married couples are invited to renew their wedding vows Sept. 8 as part of the "Making Your Marriage Last" program co-sponsored by the Pioneer Chapel and Army Community Service. Sign up for the class, vow renewal ceremony and reception by Sept. 2 at ACS, Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne. Class, ceremony and reception are free. Photos may be purchased directly from the photographer. For more details contact Chaplain Voyles at mil 322-2119 or Amy Cuebas at mil 322-8766 or civ (06181) 88-8766.

Ration card hours

The USAG Hessen Hanau Community S-1 office issues ration cards on Wednesdays from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Appointments may be made Monday - Wednesday and Friday by calling ahead. No ration cards will be issued on Thursdays. All USAG Hessen Hanau Community civilian employees must have ID card and a copy of their orders or a memo from CPAC validating employment. Call Sgt. Sierra or SPC Adade at mil 322-1450. The office is located on Yorkoff Kaserne, Building 1208, Room 102.

Financial Readiness classes

Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program offers classes on how to manage money, get out of debt and find financial freedom. A **Credit Management and Debt Liquidation** class is held the second Wednesday of every month. A **Principles of Personal Finance** class is held the third Wednesday of each month. **Understanding Investments** is on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Classes start at 2 p.m. To sign up call mil 322-8963, civ (06181) 88-8963 or stop by ACS, Building 19, on Pioneer Kaserne.

Army Family Team Building classes

Level 1 all day Saturday classes are offered Aug. 6 and 13 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wolfgang Kaserne, Building 514 in the conference room. Call civ (06181) 88-5308/8963 or mil



Photo by Karl Weisel

Muggles celebrate at Harry Potter party

Professor Trelawny, alias public services librarian Christina Kruger, a character from the Harry Potter novels, entertains youngsters during a party at the Hanau Library July 16 following the arrival of the latest novel in the series - "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." Party-goers enjoyed Harry Potter quizzes, trivia contests and refreshments ranging from Bertie Botts multi-flavored beans to eyeball cupcakes. The libraries in Hanau and Büdingen continue to feature their summer reading program, "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds" throughout the school vacation period. Stop by either library for more information about summer reading or to check out the latest offerings.

322-5308/8963 to enroll.

SAEDA training

Subversion And Espionage Directed Against the Army (SAEDA) and Anti-terrorism/Force Protection Level I awareness briefings will be conducted Aug. 9 and 23 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Evening Star Theater on Pioneer Kaserne. SAEDA training and AT/FP briefings are annual requirements for all military members and Department of the Army civilians. Please show up 15 minutes prior to briefing to allow for sign-in. Call mil 322-1332 for more information.

Smoking cessation classes

American Lung Association Freedom From Smoking classes will be offered at the Hanau Health Clinic starting Sept. 20 and Nov. 8. Classes are Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to noon for seven weeks. All active duty Soldiers, family members, civilians and contractors may attend. Call Candi Ash at mil 328-6695

or civ (06181) 500-6695 to schedule an appointment.

Military Idol starts tomorrow

The first round of the Military Idol talent competition is Aug. 5 from 9-11 p.m. at the Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. These first round auditions are a cappella and will be judged by a three-judge panel. In subsequent rounds both judges and audience determine who moves to the semifinals. Audience vote alone will determine the semifinal and "Military Idol" winners. For more information call mil 323-3270.

Arts and Crafts

August is Paper Crafts Month at the American Sampler Crafts Shop on Wolfgang Kaserne. Save 10% on "Craft of the Month" supplies. Make a **paper fan arrangement** on Aug. 13 from 1-5 p.m. Cost is \$17.50 and includes all supplies. Make **personalized stationary** sets Aug. 14 from 2-5 p.m. Cost is

\$20 and includes all supplies. Make **paper beads** on Aug. 20 and 25 from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes all supplies, bring your own magazine. Learn tips and basic techniques at simple **paper crafting demonstrations** every Thursday at 2:30 p.m. this month. The Arts and Crafts shop is open Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information call civ (06181) 88-8082 or mil 322-8082.

Celebrate National Kids Day on Aug. 7

National Kids Day is a day set aside each year to celebrate and honor America's children by spending meaningful time with them. The CYS sponsored event, held on Pioneer Kaserne, is Aug. 7 from 1-4 p.m. and includes crafts, food and drink booths, storytelling, face painting, karaoke, a photography exhibit and 3-on-3 basketball. A family fun walk, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., starts in Pioneer Housing. For more information call civ (06181) 88-8155 or 8231.

Girl Scouts need volunteers

The Hanau Community Girl Scouts needs dedicated volunteer leaders, co-leaders and committee members for the upcoming scouting year. If interested contact Linda Tolen at mil 322-9765 or civ (06181) 88-9765.

Outdoor Rec trips

Visit the world's largest indoor beach on Aug. 12-14 at the **Tropical Island resort** in Berlin. Cost is \$159 for adults, \$129 for youths age 4-12, \$50 for those 3 and under. On Aug. 20-21 tour the **Black Forest and Strasbourg, France**. Cost is \$119 for adults, \$69 for youths age 4-12, \$35 for those 3 and under. On Aug. 27 take the kids to Legoland. Cost is \$59 per adult, \$39 for youths age 4-12 and \$20 for those 3 and under. Register at Outdoor Recreation, located on Old Argonner Kaserne, Building 459. Call mil 322-8891 or civ (06181) 88-8891 for details.

Indoor yard sale

The Hanau USO sponsors an indoor yard sale on Aug. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hanau High School. If interested in renting a table or to donate items for the sale, call the USO at (06181) 88-8725.

Be a recruiter

Learn more about the benefits and challenges of recruiting duty at a recruit the recruiter presentation Aug. 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Kaserne movie theater. E-5s through E-7s and their spouses are invited. For more information call Sgt. Vershinin at mil 323-3001.

USO spa trip

The Hanau USO offers a two-and-a-half hour spa special at the Evelin Wellness Paradise on Aug. 18 and 20. Participants will receive a facial massage, body massage, full body aroma massage, foot massage and body wrap for •95 (with VAT form) and a \$15 transportation fee. Departs Pioneer Kaserne at 9 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. Call the Hanau USO at (06181) 88-8725 for information and reservations.

Hanau Community

Community notes . . . Community notes

Crafters wanted

Crafters are wanted for the craft corner at the 2005 Fall Bazaar Sept. 23-25 at Fliegerhorst Kaserne. If interested call Bianca Moton at mil 322-8725, civ (0160) 9105 2378 or email bianca.moton@us.army.mil.

New Club i hours

Fliegerhorst Kaserne's Club i is open Thursday 8 p.m. to midnight and Friday to Saturday from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday features Karaoke and variety music at 9 p.m. Country and western starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday. Call civ (06181) 88-7509 for details.

Religious services

On Sundays the **Pioneer Chapel** holds a collective Protestant service at 9 a.m., a Protestant gospel service at 11 a.m. and a Church of God in Christ service at 2 p.m. The **Fliegerhorst Chapel** holds a contemporary Protes-

tant service on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Sunday Catholic services include a sacrament/confession at 8:15 a.m., Mass at 9 a.m. and a Spanish Mass at 12:45 p.m. On the first Friday of each month a Eucharistic Adoration is at 7 p.m. and Mass is at 8 p.m. The **Büdingen Chapel** holds a collective Protestant service on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information contact the USAG Hessen Chaplains Office at mil 322-1370 or civ (06181) 88-1370.

National Night Out

The Hanau USO and Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program present a Family Day-National Night Out Aug. 25 from 2-10 p.m. at Pioneer Kaserne. The event will feature sports tournaments, children's activities, bike registration, a safety demonstration, free food, giveaways, performances by the Galaxy

cheerleaders and a concert by the 1st Personnel Command Rock Band. Call civ (06181) 88-8725 or (06181) 180-2855.

Children's theater auditions

The Five Pfenning Theater holds auditions for "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" Aug. 23-24 at 6 p.m. Approximately 30 boys and girls, grades one to six, are needed. Auditions will be at the Five Pfenning Theater, Building 405 on Old Argonner Kaserne. For more information call civ (06181) 88-8031.

VAT Office now at Arts and Crafts

The Value Added Tax Relief Office is now co-located with the American Sampler Arts and Crafts Shop in Building 545 at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. The new hours of operation are

Wednesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call mil 322-9997 or civ (06181) 88-9997.

Spouse support group meetings

Are you feeling lonely or isolated? A support group for spouses of deployed Soldiers or those soon to be deployed meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. at Hanau Army Community Service in Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call civ (06181) 88-8965 for more information.

Sunrise Grill closed

The Sunrise Grill, located on Old Argonner Kaserne, is closed until Aug. 21 for summer break.

Hanau boxing tourney

The Hanau Community holds a boxing tournament at Cardwell Fitness Center Aug. 20. Physicals, weigh-ins and registration will take place from 9 a.m. to noon with the first bout starting at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. for spectators. Admission is \$3 for adults; children age 12 and under enter for free. For more information call mil 323-2607.

Graduation ceremony

The Central Texas College-Europe campus held their 2005 graduation ceremony on July 27 at Old Argonner Kaserne in Hanau. James R. Anderson, CTC chancellor, conferred associates degrees on 28 students.

Pentagon



Photo by Susan Huseman

Wrapped up in magic

Magician Loch David Crane performs a feat of magic on 8-year old Danielle Griffin at the Kids Korner on July 14. More than 50 children gathered to see Crane's character "Merlin-ye-Mage" perform illusions such as a burning wallet, rope tricks and mind reading. For several summers Crane has performed his magic act at various military installations, including Baumholder, Hanau, and Giessen.

Manager makes milestone of humanitarian service

By Troy Darr

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Public Affairs Office

The American Red Cross provides service members and their families with access to financial assistance, counseling and emergency communications 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

George Georgakakos, Hanau Red Cross senior station manager, first took on that mission 40 years ago and has been serving Soldiers and their families ever since.

"What an asset to the world — someone who would work for 40 years in a humanitarian organization," said Jay Harris, Hanau Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program coordinator. "We are blessed to have him in Hanau."

Georgakakos was drafted into the Army in 1963 after completing a degree in journalism from the University of Pittsburgh. He said he thought the Army would put him to work in public relations; however, he ended up training as a Military Police specialist and working as a sentry dog trainer in Korea.

In Korea Georgakakos first saw the Red Cross at work.

"I had a buddy whose father was critically ill, and I was really impressed with how the Red Cross guy came in and handled things," said Georgakakos. "When I got back to Pittsburgh after the Army, I went to the Pittsburgh chapter (of the Red Cross) and they set me up for an interview."

After a series of interviews Georgakakos was hired and reported to his first station at Fort Belvoir, Va., as



Photo by Troy Darr

George Georgakakos, Hanau Red Cross senior station manager, talks with field office assistant Sharon Estrada.

a trainee.

"From there it was a million stops and so many countries it's unbelievable," he said.

Georgakakos said that during his first couple of assignments, he could not understand why some of the Red Cross employees with 15 or 20 years of experience were still working in the field.

"I understand why they stayed in now," Georgakakos said. "It gets in your blood."

"In most organizations you're not working as closely with the customers as we are. It's instant gratification when I can help someone out."

Georgakakos said his career has had a lot of high points, but the work also has its challenges.

In 1972 he was working in Vietnam. "How we handled and delivered death messages was very emotional to me," said Georgakakos. "It's hard to tell four fighter pilots in one day a member of their family had died. That was pretty rough. How could you deliver these kinds of messages? There is nothing nice about them, but I wanted to handle them as sensitively as possible."

He managed to get through that assignment, but found himself back in the region a few years later.

"In Thailand I was helping reunite Soldiers with the Vietnamese families they had to leave behind in 1975 (when South Vietnam fell to the North)," said Georgakakos. "That was a very rewarding experience, but it had its depressing moments."

"In refugee camps I saw people starving to death. The camps had just started. I never saw someone starve to death before, and I never want to see it again. It was grim, and it has always stuck in my mind. I will never forget the faces," he said.

Georgakakos met his wife, Noi, while working in Thailand in 1979. She was a volunteer with the International Committee of the Red Cross, writing and interpreting letters in French. They married two years later.

During Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf from 1990-1991, Georgakakos worked as the Red Cross director of operations overseeing 115 Red Cross workers.

"After it was all over we had handled

200,000 messages, and that was a pretty big challenge," said Georgakakos.

Some other highlights of Georgakakos's career include taking Elizabeth Dole on a week-long tour of Red Cross operations during Operation Desert Storm and being stationed in Taiwan where he saw Chiang Kai-shek, the president of Taiwan.

Georgakakos has been working in Hanau for the last five years.

Sharon Estrada worked with him for a year as a field office assistant.

"He's fun and very interesting," said Estrada. "He always wants to help and find the best way for everyone."

"He always tries to develop a personal relationship with Soldiers. He wants to find out where they've been, where they're going and make sure they understand what services Red Cross has to offer."

"He's open to new ideas as long as it helps the community and the Soldiers," she said.

Bianca Moton, the Red Cross adviser and Hanau USO manager, said Georgakakos has been like a father figure to her over the last three years.

"He is probably the most easy-going person I work with," said Moton. "It's very easy to work with him because he is very open minded to my suggestions about how to do things differently."

"From what I've seen he makes sure that every emergency that comes up gets delivered on time. And when someone needs a shoulder to cry on, he is there. He really cares for the community."

Georgakakos said he's not planning to give up yet, but he is "coming to the end of the rainbow within a year or so."

German doctors essential to Soldier, family health care needs

By Susan Huseman

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Hanau Community Public Affairs Office

German physicians and local hospitals are integral in supporting the health care needs of Hanau Soldiers and their families.

Recently the health clinic hosted a dinner to recognize and thank the local physicians for the excellent care they provide patients.

More than 76 physicians, assistants and ambulance service personnel attended the annual preferred provider network appreciation barbecue.

According to Reggie Underwood, chief of TRICARE at the Hanau clinic, German health care providers are essential to the well being of the Hanau military community. "We have eight doctors on staff providing primary and pediatric care.

"Since the closest military hospital is over 50 miles away, we have an agreement with the local physicians and hospitals to provide specialty care and hospitalization close to home."

"We also have several pediatricians and family practice physicians in our PPN to ensure family members and retirees can obtain same day appointments for acute complaints."

"The support from our network providers is exceptional," reported Lt. Col. Diana Ruzicka, chief nurse and patient representative. "One obstetrician has tailored his practice to almost exclusively take care of American patients."

"In addition to speaking perfect English himself, he has a specific phone which is answered by an English speaking staff member to serve the American patients."

"Another obstetrician hired an as-

sistant from Spain to assist in the care of our Spanish speaking patients."

Ruzicka also said that when the Hanau StadtKrankenhaus (city hospital) pediatric ward was remodeled two years ago, hospital administrators, realizing that most American parents want to remain in the hospital with

their child, had fold out beds installed at each bedside.

"The medical treatment and medical outcome that we get (from the German health care providers) is as good or better than our own system," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Foe, Hanau Clinic commander.

Nissan